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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE THE APPLICATION OF

De Bosscher et al.

SERIAL NO.: To Be Assigned

FILED: Herewith

FOR: VACUUM TIGHT COUPLING FOR TUBE  
SECTIONS

) Examiner:  
)  
) Group Art Unit:  
)  
)  
)  
)  
) Docket No.: 522-1730

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington DC 20231

Dear Sir:

The present application is the national filing of International Application No. PCT/EP99/04085. Before calculation of the filing fee for the United States, it is requested that the application be amended as follows:

In the claims:

Cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice, and substitute claims 13-32 as follows:

A<sup>1</sup> 5.1 8213. A vacuum tight coupling for end portions of two tubular sections, the size of the inner space of a first end portion being smaller than that of a second end portion, the second end portion having a flange extremity axially slidable over the first end portion to abut the flange extremity against a peripheral outer abutment ring on said first end portion, the coupling comprising at least one sealing ring between said end portions in their